

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /054 W

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O 130905Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8345

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0945

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KS

SUBJECT: REFERENDUM RESULTS

REF: SEOUL 0918

SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY 80 PER CENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS  
CAST BALLOTS IN FEBRUARY 12 REFERENDUM AND 73 PER CENT  
VOTED APPROVAL OF BALLOT, SUPPORTING MAJOR POLICIES  
OF PRESIDENT PARK. VOTING ATMOSPHERE IN SEOUL AND  
COUNTRYSIDE WAS CALM AND UNEVENTFUL. AFTER HIS FAST KIM  
YONG-SAM ANNOUNCED THAT HE CONSIDERED REFERENDUM INVALID.  
PRESIDENT PARK IN CONCILIATORY VICTORY ANNOUNCEMENT  
STRESSED NATIONAL UNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTERNOON KOREAN PRESS FEBRUARY 13 CARRYING MINISTRY  
OF HOME AFFAIRS TABULATION ON REFERENDUM RESULTS BASED ON  
COUNT OF OVER 99 PERCENT OF BALLOTS CAST. THESE FIGURES  
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

VOTES CAST: 13.4 MILLION (80 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS)  
APPROVING PRRESIDENT'S POLICIES: 9.8 MILLION (73.0PERCENT)

OPPOSING PRESIDENT'S POLICIES: 3.4 MILLION

INVALID BALLOTS: 233 THOUSAND

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FOR SEOUL, FIGURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

VOTES CAST: 2.1 MILLION (60PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS)

APPROVE: 1.2 MILLION (58 PERCENT)

OPPOSE: 849 THOUSAND

INVALID: 32.7 THOUSAND

2. ON NATIONWIDE BASIS, APPROVING VOTES AS PERCENTAGE  
OF REGISTERED VOTERS WAS 58 PERCENT. FOR SEOUL PERCENTAGE  
WAS 35 PERCENT.

3. FINAL TABULATION FOR FOR EACH PROVINCE AND FOR SEOUL  
AND PUSAN WILL BE TRANSMITTED WHEN RELEASED HERE.

4. JUDGING FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS  
IN SEOUL, VOTING ATMOSPHERE WAS GENERALLY CALM AND  
UNEVENTFUL. THE HALF DOZEN VOTING STATIONS OBSERVED  
FROM OUTSIDE IN SEOUL AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING DAY  
HAD ONLY HANDFUL OF VOTERS ENTERING AND LEAVING. RADION  
AND TV ANNOUNCEMENTS URGED VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS, BUT  
GENERAL ABSENCE OF PLACARDS, OF CONCENTRATIONS OF PEOPLE  
AROUND POLLS, AND OF LOUDSPEAKER EXHORTATIONS GAVE IMPRESSION  
THAT NOTHING IN PARTICULAR WAS GOING ON.

5. OPPOSITION ACTIVITY WAS SIMILARLY LACKADAISICAL.  
KIM YONG-SAM'S HUNGER STRIKE WAS A NON-EVENT, WHILE  
KIM TAE-CHUNG'S FASTING AND PRAYERS IN THE MYONG DONG  
CATHEDRAL FAILED TO ATTRACT ANY CROWDS NEAR THE  
CHURCH. RIOT POLICE SEATED IN A BUS SOME BLOCKS AWAY  
DOZED AND CHATTED FOR LACK OF ANYTHING MORE USEFUL  
TO DO.

6. WITH VOTING OVER AND RETURNS BEGINNING TO COME IN,  
KIM YONG-SAM ANNOUNCED THAT REFERENDUM WAS INVALID AND  
THAT NDP WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR CHANGES IN PRESENT  
CONSTITUTION. KIM CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN MORE IRREGULARITIES  
IN VOTE THAN IN MARCH 1960 ELECTIONS WHICH HAD LED TO STUDENT  
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REVOLUTION. KIM TAE-CHUNG CLAIMED THAT NEITHER KOREAN  
PEOPLE NOR WORLD AT LARGE WOULD "RECOGNIZE" RESULTS  
OF VOTE. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY ALSO  
EXPRESSED REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE OUTCOME.

7. IN FEBRUARY 13 VICTORY STATEMENT, PRESIDENT PARK TOOK  
SOFT, CONCILIATORY LINE, STRESSING HIS INTENTION TO PROMOTE  
NATIONAL UNITY. IN WAKE OF NATIONAL CONCENSUS EVIDENCED

BY SUCCESSFUL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, PARK PROMISED TO DEVELOP  
NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL SYSTEM BUT OFFERED NO SPECIFIC  
BLUEPRINT.

COMMENT: THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM ARE  
ABOUT WHAT MOST OBSERVERS EXPECTED. MORE SURPRISING  
THAN THE OUTCOME WAS THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF CALM  
WHICH PRECEDED AND SURROUNDED THE VOTING. ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION  
BOYCOTT APPEALS UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE LOW VOTE  
IN SEOUL AND MAY WELL HAVE HELPED REDUCE THE VOTE  
ELSEWHERE, NEITHER THE NDP NOR THE OTHER OPPOSITION  
ELEMENTS APPEARED TO HAVE THE INCLINATION OR THE ABILITY  
TO STIMULATE DISORDERS OR CONFRONTATIONS WHICH WOULD  
HAVE FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO HOLD THE VOTE UNDER  
REPRESSIVE CIRCUMSTANCES. THAT THE OPPOSITION DID NOT  
BRING OFF THIS CONFRONTATION IS ALL THE MORE  
NOTEWORTHY GIVEN THE UNUSUAL ATTENTION PAID TO OPPOSITION  
ACTIVITIES IN THE KOREAN PRESS. THIS FAILURE ON THE  
PART OF THE OPPOSITION TO IGNITE THE KIND OF DISTURBANCE  
WHICH THE GOVERNMENT FEARS MAY REINFORCE PARK'S AVOWED  
INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE TO BE LENIENT WITH THE OPPOSITION  
IN THE POST REFERENDUM PERIOD.

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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